

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MILAN 01699 280651Z

11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAJ-01 /073 W

----- 040694

R 280545Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4841

AMEMBASSY ROME

ZNE/AMCONSUL TURIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 1699

ROME PLEASE PASS TO DCM FOR AMBASSADOR HINTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: ARRIGO LEVI: KEEP AN OPEN MIND

1. AMBASSADOR DEANE HINTON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AND TURIN VICE CONSUL MCKINLEY CALLED JULY 24 ON ARRIGO LEVI, EDITOR OF TURIN DAILY LA STAMPA AND COLUMNIST FOR NEWSWEEK. LEVI WAS AT LEAST MILDLY OPTIMISTIC ON ALL FRONTS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING PCI PROGRESS AWAY FROM TOTALITARIANISM.

2. LEVI'S MOST INSISTENT POINT WAS THAT ITALIAN COMMUNISTS HAD UNDERGONE REAL CHANGES. THEIR TENDENCY AWAY FROM TOTALITARIANISM IS MORE THAN JUST POSE. SO IS THEIR FEAR OF SOVIET UNION. PCI AT SOME POINT IN TIME MADE FUNDAMENTAL CHOICE OF WEST OVER EAST. LOOK AT RECENT BERLINGUER SPEECH CALLING EUROPE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS' GUARANTEE AGAINST EAST. BERLINGUER SAID THAT NOT ONCE BUT SEVERAL TIMES, AND ON NATIONAL TELEVISION. IT'S SILLY TO THINK SUCH STATEMENTS DON'T MEAN ANYTHING.

3. NOT THAT PCI HAS BECOME SOCIALDEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION, A CHARACTERIZATION COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES RESENT. PARTY'S  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MILAN 01699 280651Z

INTERNAL RULE STILL TOTALITARIAN. BUT IT'S CHANGING. LEVI'S

ADVICE TO US: KEEP AN OPEN MIND. AMERICANS SHOULD HELP  
PUSH PCI IN LIBERAL DIRECTION BY WORKING TO STRENGTHEN  
ITALY'S DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.

4. LEVI WAS ASKED ABOUT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S RECENT AL-  
LEGATIONS THAT SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES MADE AGREEMENT WITH  
US TO STOP AID TO ITALY IN EVENT OF PCI INCLUSION IN GOVERN-  
MENT. THAT DOESN'T BOTHER US MUCH, RESPONDED LEVI, BECAUSE  
WE KNOW IT'S SILLY. GOVERNMENT INCLUDING PCI WOULD APPLY TO  
WASHINGTON OR BRUSSELS FOR LOANS OR OTHER AID IN SAME OLD  
WAY AND WITH SAME POSITIVE RESULT. THE SCENARIO: SOME DC  
PRIME MINISTER, CRONY OF AMERICANS FOR YEARS, WOULD SHOW UP  
IN WASHINGTON WITH WELL-BEHAVED COMMUNIST MINISTER OF  
TREASURY AND TELL AMERICANS ITALY IS IN TROUBLE AND NEEDS  
HELP. ITALY WOULD GET ASSISTANCE SHE REQUESTED, NO MATTER  
WHAT KISSINGER HAPPENS TO BE SAYING AT MOMENT.

5. COMMENTING ON INTERNAL ITALIAN POLITICS LEVI MAINTAINED  
DC RENEWAL HAS ALREADY BEGUN. HE POINTED TO DC BUSINESS-  
MEN AND OTHER NON-POLITICIANS IN PARLIAMENT AS A RESULT  
OF RECENT ELECTIONS AS WELL AS YOUNG FIRST-TIME DEPUTIES.  
THEY ARE BOUND TO MAKE SOME DIFFERENCE. NOT THAT DC  
RENEWAL PROCESS HAS GONE FAR. BUT IT HAS BEGUN.

6. LEVI WAXED ENTHUSIASTIC OVER RECNE LA STAMPA SETTLEMENT  
WITH UNIONS WHICH CAME AFTER LONGEST NEWSPAPER STRIKE IN  
ITALIAN HISTORY. HE SAW AGREEMENT AS SIGN THAT LABOR  
RECOGNIZED IT COULDN'T CONTINUE INDEFINITELY TO GET EVERY-  
THING IT WANTED AND FELT LA STAMPA CASE WAS REPRESENTATIVE  
OF GENERAL TURN FOR BETTER IN ITALIAN LABOR ATTITUDES. AS  
FOR ITALY'S IMAGE AS PLACE WHERE POISONED LABOR RELATIONS  
FLOURISH, LEVI THOUGHT THAT WAS OVERDRAWN ANYWAY. HE SAID  
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, BEING MINORITY IN ITALY, ACTUALLY HAVE  
MORE IN COMMON WITH MANAGERS THAN WITH OTHER GROUPS IN  
SOCIETY AND THAT THIS CONVERGENCE OF INTERESTS MAKES FOR  
BETTER LABOR RELATIONS HERE THAN ITALY IS USUALLY GIVEN  
CREDIT FOR.

7. ITALY'S POLITICAL FUTURE, SAID LEVI, IS DESTINED TO SEE  
INCREASING DOMESTIC POLARIZATION. EVEN THOUGH ITALY'S  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MILAN 01699 280651Z

GREATEST NEWSPAPERS SUPPORTED LAY PARTIES IN LAST MONTH'S  
ELECTIONS, TREND WAS NOT ARRESTED. HE ENVISIONED BOTH DC  
AND PCI ADVANCING EVEN FURTHER IN NEXT ELECTIONS IF PRESENT  
CONDITIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT. NOT THAT POSSIBILITY OF THIRD  
FORCE FOR ITALY WAS RULED OUT. THERE WAS SPACE THERE THAT  
AMOUNTED TO 15 TO 20 PER CENT OF VOTE. PROBLEM NOW IS TO  
FIND "ITALIAN WAY" TO THIRD FORCE.

8. ON ITALY'S COMMITMENT TO UNITED EUROPE, LEVI SAW IT AS  
STILL STRONG. HE FELT 1978 ELECTIONS FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
WOULD BE POPULAR AMONG ITALIANS AND THAT ELECTIONS WOULD  
ATTRACT TOP FLIGHT CANDIDATES. PARSONS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, COALITION GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, EDITORS, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MILAN01699  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760291-0434  
**From:** MILAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760714/aaaaalsw.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARRIGO LEVI: KEEP AN OPEN MIND  
**TAGS:** PINR, PFOR, IT, (LEVI, ARRIGO)  
**To:** STATE ROME  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006